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My  
Philosophy  
of Life



POEMS  
BY  
CORNELIUS EDWIN WALKER

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

CHICAGO







**Mrs. Mertie E. Walker**



**Rev. C. E. Walker, D. D.**

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**Conveying Hints**

**On My**

**Philosophy  
of Life**

**“Ich Dien”**

**Cornelius Edwin Walker**

**SOMETIMES**

**President of Central College**

**and**

**Professor of Belles Letters, Ethics  
and  
Philosophy**

**1915**

**CHICAGO**

**STEINWAY HALL**

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1915



TO MERTIE EUNICE HAWES  
MY DEVOTED WIFE

Whose Loving Encouragement  
Has Kept My Pen Busy  
Urging Upon My Fellows  
A More Earnest Life  
C. E. W.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

"Words of Wisdom to the Married"  
"Our Wedding Wreath"  
"True Manliness"  
"The Psychology of Success"

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## ASPIRATION A PROPHECY

Ἐγώθε σεαυτόν.

Dedicated to Rev. Barend

H. Kroeze, D. D.

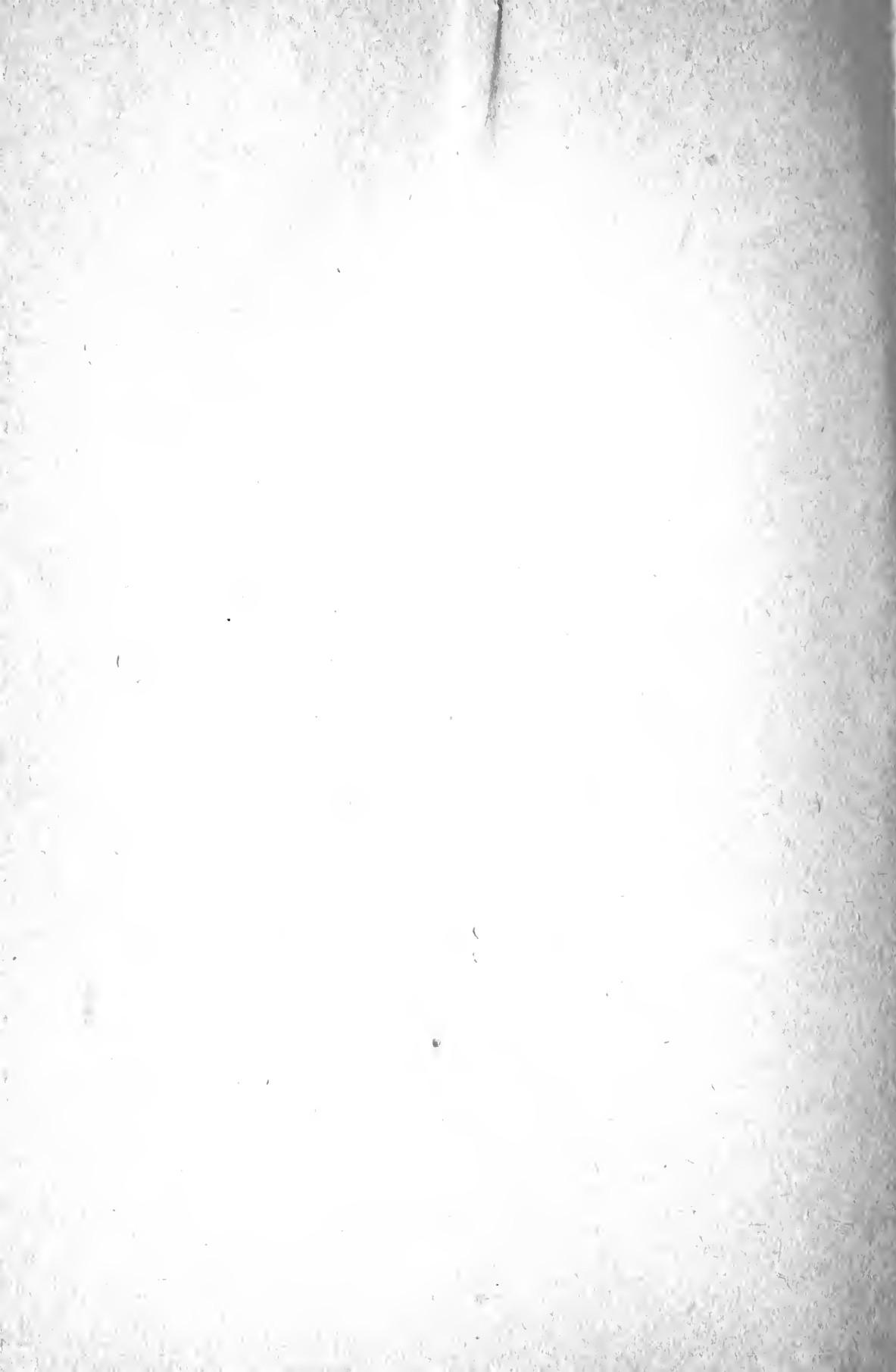
(President Jamestown College)

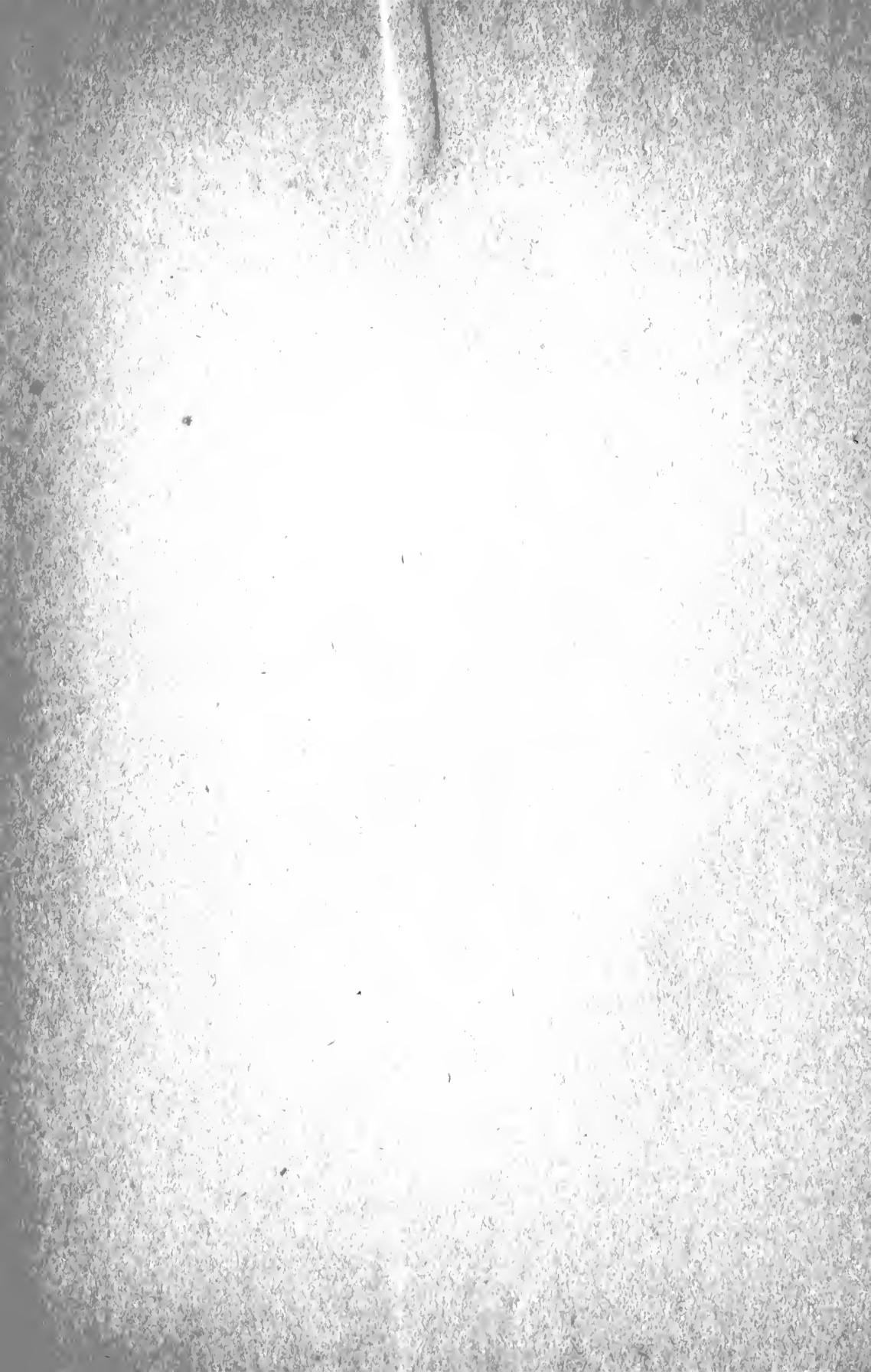
Command your reserve powers  
To come into the light  
And use your passing hours  
To build a man of might;  
To man there is no limit  
(As far as he can see):  
The soul has that within it  
A limitless man to be.

Man has potential power  
To reach to any height,  
And only stops at lower  
Because unknown his might;  
He may not reach the summit  
As God the summit sees,  
But his own aspiration  
Can reach whate'er it please.

God gave man one condition  
To prompt him to rise higher—  
An in-born true ambition,  
A holy inner fire  
To glow and light the path-way  
To higher heights,—and on  
Through every sort of hindrance  
To welcome victory won.

Just take that aspiration  
As prophecy come true;  
Court e'er your own ambition  
As to what you ought to do;  
Your longings are prophetic  
Of God's real working plan  
To lead you to achievement—  
To make a manly man.





## A NORMAL LIFE.

Dedicated to Rev. E. R. Welch

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### 1.

Give me health to furnish vigor,  
Force for service in large store,  
Then I'll work though taxed with rigor,  
And by service grow the more.

### 2.

Body, mind and soul e'er splendid,  
Aiming thus for true success,  
Then when life with tasks is ended  
Heaven's gates will ope to bless.

### 3.

Great reward for earth's commotion  
Is the growth, the expanse of soul,  
Which results from faith's devotion  
In the making earth-life whole.

### 4.

Then with soul-life's full expansion,—  
Room for joy and peace and love,—  
This makes earth as 't were extension  
Of the heavenly realm above;

### 5.

Heaven come down to earth with blessing  
For the soul unfolded here,  
All the life its aim expressing;  
Heaven 's here or anywhere.

## THE TRIUMPHANT LIFE

Dedicated to  
Rev. Thomas J. Sanders, Ph. D., L L. D.  
Hulitt Professor of Philosophy,  
Otterbein University

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### I

Onward, right onward to mountain top,  
Whatever the hindrance we may not stop;  
Whatever 's before us the view is clear,  
Whatever the burden the help is near;  
The vision 's within us, the help at hand,  
For all needed force is at our command;  
If only to conscience and God we're true  
There's nothing too great for us to do.

### II

Then onward and upward with steady flight;  
The goal and the glory are full in sight.  
We've only to believe to make it true;  
We've only to trust and dare to do.  
The victory is with us, e'en in us all,  
And nothing can hinder or make us fall  
If settled at first that to the end  
The truth and right we will defend.

### III

Then forth to success we sing and fly  
With our faith in God who cannot lie;  
To glorious triumph we surely come  
And enter the gate of heaven our home;  
But heaven alone is not our goal,—  
The purpose of life is to expand the soul;  
For tasks and toil in a world of strife  
Serve but to strengthen and prove our life.

### IV

This fits for service of field on high  
By proving our worth before we die;  
For struggles and strife in earthly sphere  
Tend to eliminate doubt and fear,  
And make of death an open door  
Into a world where we'll live the more  
For having lived a life of love  
That flowers on earth and fruits above.

## THERE'S LIGHT BEHIND THE CLOUDS

Dedicated to Baby Margaret Wheeler

---

### 1.

As near the window here I write  
And watch the clouds go flitting by,  
**Anon** the sun's rays beam so bright,  
Reminding of life's broken sky.

### 2.

Sometimes a dark and threatening storm  
Is hanging o'er your head and mine,—  
We shrink with fear, we take alarm;—  
'Twill surely crush us in its line.

### 3.

Just as we think the danger nears  
And we 'er about to hide away  
The storm is gone,—the sun appears,—  
And life is hopeful, bright and gay.

### 4.

Then as the sun's bright rays do gleam  
Just after clouds so dark and drear,  
So life's uneven course may seem—  
A repetition—dark then clear.

### 5.

When you're bowed down in grief and gloom  
And everything seems lost and sad,  
Remember this: What'er may come  
The good will always chase the bad.

I WILL: THEREFORE I CAN  
Dedicated to Jonathan Rigdon, Ph. D.  
(President Winona College)

---

I

I Will is a spirit that nothing can daunt,  
Believing that surely the thing that you want  
Is ever at hand for him who says Will,  
Not waiting or liot'ring at foot of the hill,  
But onward and upward to aim without stop;  
There's nothing to hinder this side of the top  
Of manly ambition, of honorable goal;  
I Will gives the vict'ry to man with a soul.

II

Thus joy fills the man when he works with a Will;  
No matter how difficult, he's at it still  
Until every hindrance he meets shall give way;  
To work he goes cheerful as boy when at play.  
So life is e'er joyful to such a strong man  
Whose Will is the power by which he says Can;  
With force e'er to conquer the difficult things  
He ever mounts higher; he walks as with wings.

III

The man who has faith in his mission on earth  
Is truly light-hearted, is buoyant with mirth;  
He sits not complaining, bemoaning his fate;  
He does not go whining, or limping, or wait,  
But plunges headlong into tasks as they're given,  
Believing that earth is a part of his heaven;  
Full knowing that Will is the basis for Can  
He works out God's Will as a dutiful man.

## TRIBUTE TO MANHOOD.

Dedicated to Miss Esther McRuer

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1.

It is grand to shake hands with the heart;  
It is noble to cherish a friend,  
To keep all one's friends from the start,  
And serve them in love to the end.

2.

This world doth need more of such men  
To aid it along on life's road,  
For all the way long and again  
They help us to lighten the load.

3.

We often have known of this kind,  
The men, who are trustworthy, sure;  
But never indeed will you find  
A truer than Duncan McRuer.

---

## THE WHOLE MAN.

Dedicated to  
Prof. Wm. B. Thomas, A. M.

1.

Within a healthy body  
An awakened soul  
Guided by volition,  
Reaching for life's goal;  
Goal of life is **victory**  
Over self and sin,  
With God's plan—redemption—  
Evermore within.

2.

For the true redemption  
Is expanse of soul,  
Not a far-off heaven—  
Geographic goal—;  
Truth and joy and beauty  
Entering into life,  
Helping meet one's duty,  
Overcoming strife.

3.

Keeping body healthful,  
Keeping happy mind,  
Rendering manly service,  
Helping others find  
Path of truth and duty  
Through an open door,  
Manifesting beauty,  
Serving evermore.

4.

Utilizing service  
As a means of grace,  
Growing by the serving—  
Any time and place—  
Ever keeping, ever,  
Truth and right in view,  
Acts to live forever;  
Nothing else to do

5.

But to make expansion  
For one's "living soul,"  
Getting all rewarding  
Just in being whole.  
'Tis the doing, living,  
Growing as a man  
Service freely giving  
Consummates God's plan;

6.

Plan for growth in service,  
For expanding soul,  
Just to render helpful  
That which makes one whole;  
Wholly worth the living,  
Living wholly true,  
Self in service giving  
Heaven's work to do.

7.

All the work of heaven,  
All the work of earth  
Is to make our living  
Matter of man's worth;  
Worth while for the body  
Temple of the soul,  
Worth while all the powers  
Making man a whole.

8.

Wholly made in image  
And in likeness too  
Of the God who made us  
With this end in view;  
Godly man or woman  
As a "living soul,"  
Angel-type, or human,  
Altogether whole.

---

AMBITION.

Dedicated to Prof. Rob't. F. Downs.

---

1.

Ambition! what a splendid word,  
When rightly understood;  
When in a noble heart it's stirred  
To act for common good;  
When prompting all the man within  
To push, or pull, or plan,—  
Thus conquering all alluring sin—  
In making nobler man.

2.

A man without ambition's aid  
O'ercoming hindering strife  
Will fall far short for what he's made;—  
He'll lack the earnest life.  
Ambition's light to show the road  
To higher, better things,  
Enables man to bear his load;  
To burdens it gives wings.

3.

Then cherish all the heartfull hope,  
The strong prophetic fire  
That aids a man with life to cope,  
Thus rising ever higher.  
Ambition is prophetic, quite,  
As to what a man should be;  
Upon his path it throws a light  
Enabling goal to see.

## TRUE EXALTATION.

Dedicated to Dr. Arthur E. Gringle,  
Editor Lyceum World.

---

### I

My soul would rise higher  
The vales to look o'er,  
To heaven be nigher  
Than ever before;  
Yet not to live higher  
Than where duty lies,  
But bring heaven nigher  
Than space in the skies;

### II

To catch inspiration  
For duty assigned,  
With true aspiration  
Leave weakness behind;  
And feeling the glory  
Of heaven above,  
Tell the sweet story  
Of brotherly love.

### III

My soul would rise higher  
In scaling the heights,  
To catch heaven's fire  
The source of delights  
That serve as pure leaven  
To help us to rise,  
And bring to all heaven  
From space in the skies.

### IV

The heaven 's within us  
When soul is aglow,  
Its work will begin as  
These truths we shall know:—  
That life lived for others  
Is living indeed,  
And all men are brothers  
According to need.

V

The hues of real beauty,  
The tone of the song,  
These help one in duty  
Through days that are long;  
I still would rise higher  
My tasks to look o'er  
And bring heaven nigher  
Than e'er 'twas before;

VI

But not to forget that  
My work is below,  
And only to catch it,—  
The heavenly glow;—  
The glow that has tinted  
The blooms by the way,  
The soul's inspiration  
To brighten the day.

VII

My soul's aspiration  
Is lifting, has power;  
The real consecration  
That sweetens the hour  
And makes life worth living—  
For others I live—  
Is spirit forgiving  
And service to give.

---

SPEAK KINDLY TO THE CHILD.

Dedicated to Baby Lillian Andersen

---

I

Speak kindly as you pass  
That mother's darling child;  
The crowds rush by en masse,  
Neglecting to be mild;  
They therefore "pull and haul"  
And trample on the tots,  
And many a child will fall  
Because the crowds lack thoughts.

## II

The child just needs a hand  
To help it o'er the stone  
Which blocks the path o'er land  
Where it must tread alone;  
Will you then try to aid  
Some passing girl and boy?  
And lead them through the glade  
Where flow full streams of joy?

## III

Then speak kind words today  
To boys and girls you meet,  
And lead through life's safe way  
Amidst the crowded street;  
Make touch and voice and life  
So full of help and cheer  
That thwart their ills and strife  
And bring their heaven near.

## IV

Thus give your life a touch  
Of heaven's sacred good,  
By giving to all such  
As need our Brotherhood,  
A song in work and play  
From earnest loving heart,  
To make their life e'er gay;  
This is the manly part.

## V

Thus life, your own, is sweet,  
And others' lives made full;  
And many a smile you meet  
As up life's hill you pull  
The load to you made fast,  
The burdens you may bear,  
Will prove when life is past  
The answer to your prayer.

## VI

The heavenly words "Well done"  
Will greet your yearning soul,  
And you'll be not alone  
When you have reached the goal;  
There'll be the souls you've led  
By words you've spoken kind,  
By truth and light you've shed  
From hand and heart and mind.

## VII

The boys and girls your smile  
Has helped o'er rugged hill  
Will meet you there the while  
And greet you with a will;  
They'll ask our Father kind  
To crown you with His love,  
And then we all shall find  
Kind words do lead above.

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## SPEAK KIND WORDS TODAY.

Dedicated to Rev. R. B. Walker

---

### I.

There's trouble and worry,  
Imagined, and true;  
Some people are sorry,  
And others are "blue";  
Your life has a mission  
In passing this way;  
I ask you to listen:—  
Speak kind words today.

### II.

Tomorrow a Brother  
May anxiously wait,  
While looking for other  
To open the gate  
Into land bright and cheery,  
With blooms by the way;  
Just make him feel merry—  
Speak kind words today.

### III.

It helps us amazizng  
If helpful we be;  
And we are the gainers  
When hearts are aglee  
With songs of good purpose  
To brighten the way  
Along which we're passing:—  
Speak kind words today.

## HE CAN WHO WILLS

Dedicated to my friend, Mr. A. J. Hole

---

1

I WILL is the power  
That makes the mill go;  
It makes the brute cower,  
It conquers the foe.

2

I CAN is a brother  
Consorting with WILL;  
They each aid the other  
In climbing the hill.

3

The man of the hour  
Is he who says "CAN,"  
Uniting in power  
The WILL of the man.

4

With WILL on my banner,  
My heart all a-thrill,  
I do not ask, "CAN I?"  
I CAN if I WILL.

---

## A BOY'S BOUNDING LIFE.

Dedicated to Billy Morrell

---

Life is a jingle  
To many a boy  
His blood all a tingle,  
His soul filled with joy;  
And then because living  
To him is just fun  
His energies giving  
His life a swift run ,  
He's romping and racing  
Because he can't stop;  
O'er hill-top he's pacing—  
He's reaching the top  
Of boy's aspirations  
With up-lift as wings;  
The way between stations  
He whistles and sings

He sings 'cause he's happy,  
His life is all cheer,  
He never gets gloomy—  
He'll never appear  
As boy that goes whining  
Because he has work;  
His face keeps on shining,  
He never will shirk.

His tasks make him joyful—  
There's just enough strife  
To call forth the boy full  
Of rich bounding life;  
His heart all abounding  
With glee and good will,  
His manhood is rounding  
The top of the hill.

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### WANTED—A MAN

---

Dedicated to Thomas Houston

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#### 1

Be up and a doing  
By early daylight,  
Your power accruing  
A man of true might.

#### 2

The world is a waiting  
For you to come by,  
Its work with you mating  
If task you will try.

#### 3

'Tis large undertaking  
To tackle the task,  
But manhood in making  
Is all that we ask.

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